

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105003
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
OMB-01 MC-02 DODE-00 /076 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:MDSTERNBERG:SKG
APPROVED BY PM:LGELB
NEA:ALATHERTONJR

-----091759Z 096275 /50

P 091433Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR IS AU IS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF KFIR SALES TO AUSTRIA

1. SUMMARY: PM DIRECTOR GELB INFORMED THE ISRAELIS THAT WE HAVE APPROVED KFIR SALES FOR AUSTRIA. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING OVERCOME AUSTRIA'S CONCERN ABOUT ARAB REACTION. WE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THAT REQUEST BUT AT MINIMUM WE COULD INFORM THE AUSTRIANS THAT WE HAVE APPROVED ISRAELI SALES. END SUMMARY

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ ON MAY 6, PM DIRECTOR GELB CONVEYED THE ADMINISTRATION'S FAVORABLE DECISION ON ISRAELI SALES OF THE KFIR TO AUSTRIA. MR. GELB INDICATED THAT HE WAS CONVEYING THE DECISION OUTSIDE OF REGULAR MEETING OF U.S.-ISRAELI CONSULTATIVE GROUP BUT WITHIN ITS FRAMEWORK BECAUSE THE ISRAELI CONSULTATIVE GROUP
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REPRESENTATIVE HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SOME URGENCY REGARDING THIS MATTER.

3. DINITZ THANKED GELB AND TOLD HIM HE WOULD CONVEY THE DECISION TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES COULD HELP ISRAEL WITH THE AUSTRIANS,

WHO WERE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ARAB REACTION TO THE PURCHASE OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT. DINITZ SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD INDICATE TO THE AUSTRIANS THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A PURCHASE A GOOD THING. DINITZ UNDERSCORED THE NEED TO EXPORT THIS AIRCRAFT BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS ISRAEL WAS FACING WITH ITS DEFENSE PRODUCTION.

4. GELB TOLD DINITZ THAT WE WOULD HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT REQUEST SINCE THERE WERE OTHER COMPETITORS WHICH USED AMERICAN PARTS. DINITZ REITERATED HIS REQUEST BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THERE WERE OTHER COMPETITORS USING U.S. PARTS, WHILE NOTING ADVANTAGES OF KFIR SALES TO U.S. SINCE THEY WOULD RESULT IN THE SALE OF U.S. ENGINES AS WELL.

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, WHO WAS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING, SUGGESTED THAT AT MINIMUM WE COULD INFORM THE AUSTRIANS THAT WE HAVE APPROVED THE KFIR SALE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE105003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDSTERNBERG:SKG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-1151
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770578/aaaacpkq.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: a973c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2594890
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROVAL OF KFIR SALES TO AUSTRIA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IS, AU, US, (DINITZ, SIMCHA), (GELB, LESLIE)
To: TEL AVIV VIENNA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a973c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009